



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Harriett Booth
Elkhorn Ranch, Inc.
P.O. Box 633
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92607

RE: Caspian, Inc.
EPA ID #: CAD053851366

Dear Ms. Booth:

Enclosed is a Preliminary Assessment of the Caspian, Incorporated site. This report contains the results of an evaluation conducted by Weston Solutions, Inc. for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 104 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended [42 U.S.C. 9404], commonly known as Superfund. The purpose of the Preliminary Assessment is to determine whether this site may qualify for placement on the National Priorities List (NPL).

Based on currently available information contained in the enclosed report, EPA has determined that this site does not qualify for placement on the NPL and is of no further federal interest. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Leslie Ramirez at 415-972-3978 or at ramirez.leslie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Debbie Schechter, Chief
Brownfields and Site Assessment Section
Superfund Division

Enclosure

cc: Alice Gimeno-O'Brien, DTSC

EPA ID: CAD053851366 Site Name: CASPIAN, INC.

State ID:

Alias Site Names:

City: SAN DIEGO

Refer to Report Dated: 7/1/2010

County or Parrish: SAN DIEGO

State: CA

Report Developed By:

Report Type: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT 001

- ☒ 1. Further Remedial Site Assessment Under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:
NFRAP-Site does not qualify for the NPL based on existing information
- ☐ 2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA:

Discussion/Rationale:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that no further remedial action by the Federal Superfund program is warranted at the referenced site, at this time. The basis for the no further remedial action planned (NFRAP) determination is provided in the attached document.

Caspian, Incorporated ("the site") occupies approximately eight acres in a business park. The site is surrounded by business parks and is currently occupied by a working production studio. It is completely fenced and predominantly paved with restricted access. Caspian maintained twelve buildings and operated as a chemical milling facility from 1965 until 2005.

In 1990, thirty drums previously containing hydrofluoric acid were discovered buried on site at a depth of two feet. During drum excavation and removal in 1991 soil samples were collected from the excavated area and associated stockpiled soil. Chromium was detected in the samples ranging in concentrations from 12.0 mg/kg to 18.8 mg/kg. The County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health (DEH) determined these were acceptable concentrations and allowed the stockpiled soil to be returned to the excavation. In 1991, Caspian pled guilty and paid fines for felony violations related to a 1990 release of wet sludge which contained chromium at 6980 mg/kg, copper at 253 mg/kg, lead at 295 mg/kg, and cadmium at 8.1 mg/kg. Chromium was detected in soil samples ranging from 9.2 mg/kg to 73.6 mg/kg. Documentation of any resulting soil removal could not be located. The site contained four underground storage tanks which were closed in place in 1996 under DEH oversight. In 1985, a crack in one of the tanks was discovered. Soil samples collected in 1991 in the vicinity of the tanks revealed concentrations of PCE ranging from 0.14 mg/kg to 190 mg/kg. There is no indication that removal of chromium or PCE contaminated soils ever occurred at the site.

Although there is contamination on site, there are no drinking water wells within 4 miles of the site. There are no known surface water bodies within two miles of the site. The Alvarado Treatment Plant is within four miles of the site, but it appears to be a surface water runoff treatment plant. There are no documented drinking water intakes or sensitive environments within the target distance limit. There are no residences, schools, daycare centers, or sensitive environments on site. Portions of the site appear to be unpaved.

A NFRAP designation means that no additional remedial steps under the Federal Superfund program will be taken at the site unless new information warranting further Superfund consideration or conditions not previously known to EPA regarding the site are disclosed. In accordance with EPA's decision regarding the tracking of NFRAP sites, the referenced site may be removed from the CERCLIS database and placed in a separate archival database as a historical record if no further Superfund interest is warranted. Archived sites may be returned to the CERCLIS site inventory if new information necessitating further Superfund consideration is discovered.

Site Decision Made by: C. BRICKNER

Signature: _____

Date: 01/14/2011